

INDIANA PROFILE  
April 2014

Hot Issues – Indianapolis Area

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**HOT ISSUES -- INDIANA**

**Issue: Emergency Response to BP Whiting Refinery Crude Oil Release, Whiting, Indiana**

**Background/Status:** On March 24, 2014, EPA responded to a release of crude oil into Lake Michigan from the BP Whiting Refinery. Crude oil from the facility's 12-pipe area cooling system flowed to the adjacent water treatment plant and into the water separator, which became oversaturated with oil and began discharging directly to Lake Michigan via the permitted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) outfall. EPA arrived on scene the night the spill was reported and found no visible discharge of oil from the NPDES outfall to the lake. However, oil was observed in the water behind the boom, and recovery operations were being conducted in the separator unit and on the lakeshore.

On March 30, 35 survey points on the bottom of the cove were evaluated for submerged oil. As of March 31, there was no indication, based on the results of the survey, that there is any submerged oil in the surveyed area of Lake Michigan. As of March 31, all containment boom along the beach has been removed except for boom encircling the BP outfall.

**Messages:**

- EPA responded the night the spill was reported.
- EPA continues overseeing oil cleanup work coordinating closely with the U.S. Coast Guard.

**Contact:** Mike Beslow, Superfund Division, 312-353-8678, [beslow.mike@epa.gov](mailto:beslow.mike@epa.gov)

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